

CONSTITUTION

and

BY-LAWS

of the

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

Of Philadelphia and

Vicinity

—

1902

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, It has been fully demonstrated by experience that unity of action and organization among working people are imperative and essential in order to combat the ever-growing encroachments of organized and consolidated capital, and as there are many questions affecting the interest of the working classes which cannot be dealt with in special and separate Trade and Labor Unions, and as that end can be best attained by a central organization, through which all branches of labor may prove allies to any particular one that may be oppressed, and all may form a Brotherhood for the defense and protection of the laboring masses; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the delegates of the various Trade and Labor Unions here represented, do hereby form the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity, for the purpose of organizing and concentrating the efforts of the working classes for their own mutual protection, education and social advancement, and to that end we adopt the following:

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

We hold that labor produces all wealth; therefore the worker is entitled to the full product of his labors. But when wealth-producers live in poverty and idlers roll in luxury, it is very evident that the industrial system which permits such conditions must be wrong, and requires a thorough change.

It is self-evident that, as the power of capital combines and increases, the political freedom of the masses becomes more and more a delusion. There can be no harmony between capital and labor under the present industrial system, for the simple reason that capital, in its modern character, consists very largely of rent, interest and profit extorted from the producers, who possess neither the land nor the means of production, and are, therefore, compelled to sell their labor and brain-power, or both, to the possessor of the land and means of production at such prices as an uncertain and speculative market may allow. Organization of Trades and Labor Unions is one of the most effective means to check the evil outgrowths of the prevailing system, but they must keep pace with the progress of the age and with the march of advanced ideas.

While Trade and Labor Unions hitherto have

struggled for higher wages or shorter hours of labor, they have practically protected themselves as producers, but not as consumers and citizens. The ruling moneyed class has meanwhile obtained legal sanction to wring from the workers all the benefit that strikes and resistance gained; and this has been done by exacting high rents, costly transportation, gigantic corners in the necessities of life, and by monopolizing the issue of money. The privileged classes have used the police, militia, and even the Federal troops, against the workers whenever they felt their interests in danger. And yet Trades and Labor Unions go so far as to prohibit the discussion of such topics in their meetings, and their members vote in favor of the representatives of the very class that oppresses them.

The emancipation of the working classes must be achieved by the working classes themselves, as no other class has any interest in improving their condition. The combined wage-working class represents the great majority of the people. In their hands rests the future of our free institutions, and it devolves upon them to replace the present iniquitous system by one based upon equity and the nobility of all useful labor.

We regard it as the sacred duty of every honorable laboring man to devote his energy and attention to the organization of his Trade and Labor Union, and the concentration of all Unions into one solid body for the purpose of assisting each other in all struggles—political and industrial—to resist every attempt of the

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ruling classes directed against our liberties, and to extend our fraternal hand to the workers of our land and to all nations of the globe that struggle for the same independence.

In order to secure the emancipation of the wage-workers we pledge ourselves to the following:

Platform

Municipal, State and National Issues.

1. The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication, and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines. No part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the reduction of taxes on property of the employing class; but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, to the improvement of the service and diminishing the rates to the consumers.

2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.

3. State or national insurance of working-people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be furnished by the government and to be administered under the control of the working class.

4. The inauguration of a system of public in-

ustries, public credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secure in the full product of their labor.

5. The compulsory education of all children up to the age of 18 years, and State and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. Equal initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

8. Taxation of land values irrespective of improvements.

9. Sanitary inspection of mines, workshops and dwellings.

10. Payment of wages in lawful money and abolition of truck pay.

11. Liability of employers for injury to health, body or loss of life.

12. Abolition of national banks, and substitution for their notes legal tender treasury notes. Issue of all money direct by the government, and establishment of postal deposit and savings banks.

13. Adoption of a constitutional amendment requiring the election of the President and Vice-President, Judges and Senators by direct vote of the people.

14. Thorough revision of the judiciary laws.

15. Abolition of all indirect taxes.

16. Enactment of laws abolishing the sweating system.

17. That not another acre of the public land shall ever be granted to any State or Territory for any purpose whatsoever, or to anyone other

than an actual settler who has built his home on the land and lived on it for five years.

18. That the national government shall build irrigation works necessary to bring water within reach of settlers on the public lands, the cost of such works to be repaid to the government by such settlers in annual installments without interest.

19. That the national government, as a part of its policy of internal improvements, shall build the great reservoirs necessary to save for beneficial use the flood waters that now run to waste in the arid region and shall preserve the forests and re-forest denuded areas as source of water supply.

20. That land shall be subdivided into small holdings in the hands of those who will till it for a livelihood; so that labor may find occupation in the creation of rural homes, which will be perpetual safeguards against the political evils and social discontent resulting from the overgrowth of cities and the sufferings of unemployed wage earners.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1.—This organization shall be known as the CENTRAL LABOR UNION OF PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY, and shall be composed of delegates as hereinafter provided, who shall also be delegates to their respective sections.

SEC. 2.—Its objects shall be: to establish a system of financial assistance for sister societies in time of difficulties; to act as a Board of Arbitration in labor disputes; to organize a system of statistics; to discuss and examine all questions affecting the interests of the working classes; to use every endeavor to impress upon the various branches of labor the necessity for the organization and maintenance of Protective Unions; to assist in the formation of Trade and Labor Societies where none exist; to use every honorable means in our power to adjust difficulties which may arise between workmen and employers.

SEC. 3.—We hereby pledge ourselves to assist each other in securing the highest wages procurable to the workers by all honorable means;

we shall withdraw all patronage and business from any unfair employer, let the calling be what it may.

ARTICLE II.

Representation.

SECTION 1.—This body shall be composed of delegates from any bona fide Union Section of Central Labor Union as follows:

SEC. 2.—Delegates shall be elected by their Section to serve six months, or as the Section may direct, and must deposit their credentials with the Recording Secretary, but shall have no voice in the proceedings until their credentials be approved, unless by consent.

SEC. 3.—The following form of credentials shall be properly filled out by the Section having a delegate representation, signed by their President and Secretary:

Philadelphia, Pa.....

This is to certify that of No. street, was duly elected a delegate from Section to the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

If elected to fill unexpired term of some former delegate, give the name of the former delegate here

.....President.

Secretary, ...

[Seal.]

No. Street.

SEC. 4.—Non-attendance at two regular meetings without excuse shall be sufficient cause for

declaring a member's seat vacant, and the President shall so recommend it, and notice of the same shall be sent by the Corresponding Secretary to the Section by which such delegate was elected, nor shall such delegate be again eligible until the term for which he was elected has expired.

SEC. 5.—Each Section shall have the privilege of sending a substitute in case of sickness or other cause.

ARTICLE III.

Officers.

SECTION 1.—The regular officers of this body shall consist of:

- (a) President.
- (b) Vice-President.
- (c) Recording Secretary.
- (d) Financial Secretary-Treasurer.
- (e) Sergeant-at-Arms.
- (f) Three Trustees.

SEC. 2.—The regular officers shall be elected at the first meeting in the months of January and July, and shall hold office for a term of six months, or until their successors are qualified; excepting the Trustees, one to be elected every six months.

SEC. 3.—Before entering upon their duties the President shall deliver the following obligation:

I, ..., do pledge my word and honor before these witnesses that I will discharge the duties devolving on me as an officer of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vi-

cinity, as prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws, and that I shall return all money, books and property whenever required by the Central Labor Union.

ARTICLE IV.

Duties of Officers.

SECTION 1.—The President shall preside and preserve order during the deliberations of the body, sign all orders on the Treasurer authorized by the delegates, and transact such other business usual to the office of President.

SEC. 2.—The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in case of absence or resignation of that officer, and shall act as a statistician of this body and keep watch of all reports of interest to labor that may come to his notice.

SEC. 3.—The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings, attest all orders signed by the President and Recording Secretary and perform such other duties as the Constitution and By-laws may require of him.

SEC. 4.—The Financial Secretary-Treasurer shall receive and keep a record of all money paid into the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity, and shall report before the close of the meeting from what source such money was received, shall pay all warrants for moneys ordered paid. He shall send to each Section affiliated, on the first day of the last week of each quarter, a blank form to

filled out by the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Trades Section, certifying the number of the Union and the amount due by all Sections. All money to be deposited in the bank in the name of trustees, and not more than \$1,000 shall be held on hand, and to give bond \$1,000.

SEC. 5.—The Trustees shall have charge of the property belonging to this body, and the Chairman thereof shall sign all orders for withdrawal of moneys duly authorized from the bank. They shall audit the accounts and books of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer every three months, and report the result of said audit at the next regular meeting.

SEC. 6.—The Chairman of Trustees shall sign all orders for the withdrawal of any money except upon motion to that effect adopted by this body.

SEC. 7.—The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order and see that none but delegates are seated in the body of the hall. He shall be present fifteen minutes before the opening of the meeting, and have the roll book, and when announcing the delegate's card shall mark him present therein. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him, and for such duties he shall receive two dollars for each meeting.

ARTICLE V.

Vacancies.

SECTION 1.—Should any officer absent himself from three consecutive meetings and fail

to present a valid excuse, his office shall be declared vacant and an election held to fill the unexpired term.

SEC. 2.—Permanent vacancies, when not otherwise provided for in the constitution, caused by death or otherwise, shall be filled by an election at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

Quorum.

SECTION 1.—Twenty-one delegates, representing a majority of Sections represented in this body, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Affiliation Fee of Sections in Central Labor Union.

SECTION 1.—Unions desiring to affiliate with the Central Labor Union, shall first present their credentials to the Central Labor Union, the same to be accompanied by an affiliation fee of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50). No Section shall charge less than \$2.50 nor more than \$25.00 entrance fee to their respective Sections.

SEC. 2.—Any Section being three months in arrears shall be notified by the Financial Secretary-Treasurer, and if the same be not paid at the end of the next month, said Section shall be suspended.

Representations of Unions in Sections.

SEC. 3.—Each Section shall decide in what manner the various Unions shall be represented in the Section.

Representation of Sections in the Central Labor Union.

SEC. 4.—Each Section shall be represented in the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity by at least fifteen delegates, each Union to have one delegate.

Qualifications of Local Unions in the Central Labor Union.

SEC. 5.—Local Unions, to be eligible to membership in the various Sections of the Central Labor Union, must be affiliated with their national or international, where said national or international does exist, or the American Federation of Labor.

Formation of Sections.

SEC. 6.—It shall require five local unions to form a Trade Section in the Central Labor Union.

Per Capita Tax to the Central Labor Union.

SEC. 7.—The various Sections shall pay to the Central Labor Union the sum of one dollar (\$1) per month for each union affiliated therewith.

SEC. 8.—The membership cards shall bear the dates of the meetings of the Central Labor Union, which dates shall be punched by the Sergeant-at-Arms at every regular meeting.

SEC. 9.—Membership cards, good for six months or until their successors are elected, if they are withdrawn before the expiration of the term for which they were originally elected, shall be issued to delegates by the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Labor Union.

Sectional Differences.

SEC. 10.—Any differences arising within a Section, and concerning that Section only, shall be settled by that Section without being referred to the Central Labor Union. In case either of the parties to the dispute are dissatisfied with the ruling of their Section, the case may be brought up on appeal to the Central Labor Union.

ARTICLE VIII.

Boycotts and Grievances.

SEC. 1.—No Section of the Central Labor Union shall have the power to originate a boycott, and no Section shall indorse and order the placing of the name of any person, firm or corporation on an unfair list until the Local Union desiring the same has, before declaring the boycott, submitted the matter in dispute to the Section for investigation, and has used its best efforts to effect an amicable settlement.

SEC. 2.—Failing to effect a settlement, the Section shall refer the matter to the Central Labor Union with a request for the placing of the person, firm or corporation on the unfair list. The Central Labor Union shall use its best

endeavors to settle the matter to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. Failing in that, it shall then declare the person, firm or corporation on the unfair list.

SEC. 3.—Each Section shall have a standing grievance committee.

ARTICLE IX.

Committees.

SECTION 1.—At the first meeting in January and July the following standing committees shall be elected: Five or more to constitute a committee and to be elected. Organization Committee, Grievance Committee, Label Committee, Entertainment and Celebration Committee, Boycott Committee, Credential Committee, and Executive Board.

SEC. 2.—The Executive Board shall consist of one delegate from each Section, to be elected by Section, said delegate to be a delegate to the Central Labor Union. The Recording Secretary of the Central Labor Union shall be the Secretary of the Executive Board without voice or vote in same.

ARTICLE X.

Duties of Committees.

SECTION 1.—The duties of the Committee on Organization shall be to encourage and assist in the formation of new Unions and to visit the various Unions herein represented whenever required. They shall receive 25

cents for all meetings attended by order of the Chairman of the Committee.

SEC. 2.—It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Arbitration to investigate all grievances presented by affiliated Sections, and upon request attempt to amicably adjust the existing difficulties between employees and employers.

SEC. 3.—The duties of the Label Committee shall be to visit Unions, merchants and others for the purpose of agitating the use of the label, and shall use every means to bring the different labels before the public. The members shall receive the sum of 25 cents for each union visited. Any union having a label, may make donations in any sum it sees fit, to aid said label agitation, and moneys so contributed shall be placed in the hands of said committee, to be used at its discretion to further the label propaganda. subject to the approval of this body.

ARTICLE XI.

Strikes.

SECTION 1.—If an organization represented in the Central Labor Union is forced into a strike after all honorable endeavors to settle a dispute have failed, and due notification is made to the Central Labor Union officially in writing, and the same has been sanctioned, then it shall be the duty of all the trade and labor organizations represented to assist the one in difficulty, financially, to the full extent of their ability.

ARTICLE XII.

Popular Vote.

SECTION 1.—Whenever a proposition is submitted to the affiliated Section for popular vote, the Recording Secretary shall issue to each Section the proposition to be voted upon, and within four weeks from date of such submission each Section is required to notify the Secretary of the result of the vote in the following form:

Name of Section.....

Number of Members present.....

In favor of proposition.....

Against the proposition.....

SEC. 2.—When the time set for reporting has passed the Recording Secretary shall compile the result of votes as follows:

Section having voted.....

Total number of votes (tabulated).....

For the proposition.....

Against the proposition.....

SEC. 3.—When it is ascertained that the required majority for the measure has been cast the same shall be declared carried; otherwise the proposition shall be declared lost.

ARTICLE XIII.

Trade Sections.

SECTION 1.—In order to secure a better understanding among the kindred trades affiliated in the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity the following trade Sections shall be established:

Grouping of Trades Into Their Respective Sections.

(a) Building Trades Section, comprising all organizations employed in the construction, repair and embellishment of buildings.

(b) Metal Trades Section, comprising all organizations working in iron and metal, with the exception of those engaged in building construction.

(c) Marine and Transportation Section, comprising all those employed as marine and transport workers.

(d) Printing Trades Section, comprising all those engaged in the printing trades.

(e) Garment Trades Section, comprising all Unions engaged in making of garments.

(f) Miscellaneous Trades Section, to be comprised of all Unions not connected with any of the above Sections.

SEC. 2.—The various trades shall be represented in their respective Sections, said Sections to be represented in the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity, such as Building Trades Section, Printing Trades Section, Metal Trades Section, Garment Trades

Section, Building Material Manufacturers Section, Leather Trades Section, Miscellaneous Trades Section.

SEC. 3.—These Sections shall meet at least once a month, and if possible weekly, at such time and place as may be agreed upon.

SEC. 4.—The proper officer of each Section shall notify the Corresponding Secretary of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity at once of any action of that Section that may require indorsement by the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

SEC. 5.—Each Section to adopt such rules as may conform to the crafts they represent and do not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

SEC. 6.—In all cases not provided for the Sections will be governed by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

ARTICLE XIV.

Disbarment.

SECTION I.—Whenever a Section affiliated with this body refuses to discipline members against whom charges have been preferred for violating any laws, resolutions or measures adopted to protect the interests of any Union in particular, or the working class in general, or whenever a Section itself fails to comply with such regulations, said Section shall be debarred from representation in the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity, and

the National Union to which such organization may be attached shall be notified, submitting reasons for such action.

SEC. 2.—While recognizing the conflicting interests of the wage workers in various organizations and the disputes that arise from ignoring the rights of distinct trades to control absolutely all work falling under their jurisdiction, we declare that the disbarment of no section affiliated with the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity shall be ordered before charges of such character as mentioned above have been submitted by this body to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, with the request that the National Union of such organization be called upon to discipline the body failing to act on charges preferred.

ARTICLE XV.

Amendments.

SECTION 1.—This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except in a regular meeting of this body, and with the concurrence of two-thirds of the delegates present. Notice of an alteration or an amendment must be given in writing at a previous regular meeting.

SEC. 2.—Any amendment changing the objects of this organization, the representation of Sections, or increasing the initiation fee or per capita tax shall be submitted to a popular vote of the Section represented, and shall not be approved unless a majority of votes cast favor the same.

BY-LAWS

SECTION 1.—The regular meetings of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity shall be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 2.30 P. M., unless otherwise determined.

SEC. 2.—Special meetings may be called by a majority of the Executive Board.

SEC. 3.—The election of officers shall be by ballot. It shall require a majority of all votes polled to elect. Should there be no election on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped on the second ballot, and so with each successive, until a choice can be reached.

SEC. 4.—Election shall be by ballot. Nominations shall be made two meetings previous to election. The Chair shall appoint sufficient tellers to canvass the votes, and the result of the election shall be declared according to the finding of the tellers. Nominations shall be made in the meeting prior to the election.

SEC. 5.—The President shall appoint all special committees and fill all vacancies, when not otherwise provided for.

SEC. 6.—In selecting committees not more than one delegate from any Section shall be chosen, unless it be deemed to the best interest of this body to diverge from this rule.

SEC. 7.—All special committees shall report in writing at the next stated meeting unless otherwise ordered.

SEC. 8.—The funds of this body shall not be expended for any other purpose than the up-building and organization of Unions; the establishment and maintenance of labor halls and headquarters and other legitimate expenses of conducting the business of this body. In emergency cases funds may be donated to Unions in distress, provided the affiliated Unions have exhausted their means of relief, when a majority vote shall be required to adopt.

SEC. 9.—Delegate Cards, good for six months, shall be issued to delegates by the Financial Secretary, said cards to contain date of meetings, to be punched by Sergeant-at-Arms, as a record of attendance and credential for admission to the meetings.

SEC. 10.—For the faithful performance of their duties the Recording Secretary and the Financial Secretary-Treasurer shall each receive the sum of \$2.50 for each meeting.

SEC. 11.—The privileges of the floor may be granted to members of any trade or labor organization not represented in this body, or visiting delegation, by consent of the majority of delegates present.

SEC. 12.—Any delegate who shall use disrespectful or violent personal language, or refuse to obey the President when called to order, or misappropriate any funds of this body, or neglect to attend to any duties imposed on him, and which he has accepted, shall be cited to

appear before this body and offer an explanation or apology for such conduct: and in the event of failure so to appear, or to make what shall be deemed sufficient explanation or apology, he may be reprimanded or suspended from this body by a majority vote of the delegates present, and if suspended, he shall be ineligible to again represent any Union in this body, and his Union shall be immediately notified of such action and the cause therefore, with request to choose another delegate in his place.

SEC. 13.—These By-Laws can be amended by a vote of a majority of the members present, provided the same shall have been presented in writing at a previous regular meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll-call of Officers.
3. Presentation of Credentials.
4. Admission of Delegates.
5. Roll-call of Delegates.
6. Reading of Minutes.
7. Communications and Bills.
8. Reports of Officers.
9. Reports of Committees.
10. Reports of Sections.
11. Unfinished Business. (Nomination and Election of Officers; Installation of Officers).
12. New Business.
13. Welfare of Body.
14. Receipts and Expenses—Itemized.
15. Adjournment.

RULES OF ORDER

1. On motion the regular order of business may be suspended by a majority vote of the meeting at any time, to dispose of any urgent business.
2. All resolutions and resignations shall be submitted in writing.
3. Any conversation by whispering or otherwise, which is calculated to disturb a member while speaking, or hinder the transaction of business, shall be deemed a violation of order.
4. All questions of a parliamentary nature not provided for in these rules shall be decided by Cushing's Manual.
5. A motion to be entertained by the Presiding officer must be seconded, and the mover as well as seconder must rise and be recognized by the Chair; lengthy motions to be reduced to writing.
6. In presenting a motion, a brief statement of its object may be made, but no discussion of its merits shall be admitted until the question is stated by the Chair.
7. Any member having made a motion can withdraw it by consent of his second, but a motion once debated cannot be withdrawn except by unanimous consent.
8. A motion to amend an amendment shall be in order, but no motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall be permitted.

9. Any member may call for a division of question when the subject admits thereof.

10. A motion shall not be subject to debate until it has been stated by the Chair.

11. When a member wishes the floor, he shall rise and respectfully address the Chair, and if recognized by the Chair, he shall be entitled to the floor.

12. If two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Chair shall decide which is entitled to the floor.

13. Each member when speaking shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid all personal and indecorous language.

14. No member shall interrupt another while speaking, except to a point of order, and he shall definitely state the point, and the Chair shall decide the same without debate.

15. If a member, while speaking, be called to order, he shall take his seat until the point of order is decided, when, if decided in order, he may proceed.

16. If any member shall feel himself personally aggrieved by a decision of the Chair, he may appeal to the body from the decision.

17. When an appeal is made from the decision of the Chair the Vice-President shall take charge of the meeting; the question shall be put in the following manner: Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained as the decision of this meeting? The member will then have the right to state the grounds of his appeal, and the Chair will give the reason for his decision; thereupon the body will proceed to vote on the appeal without further debate.

8. No member shall speak more than once the same subject until all members desiring floor shall have spoken, and not more than once without consent; and not longer than ten minutes at any one time.

9. When a question is before the meeting no motion shall be in order except:

- a. To adjourn.
- b. To lay on the table.
- c. For the previous question.
- d. To postpone to a given time.
- e. To refer to recommit.
- f. To amend.

and these several motions shall have precedence in the order herein arranged.

10. The following motions are not debatable:

- a. To adjourn.
- b. To lay on the table.
- c. To read a document or paper.

11. When the previous question is moved and seconded it shall be put in this form: "shall the main question now be put?" If this is carried, all further motions, amendments and debate shall be excluded and the question put without delay.

12. If a motion has been amended, the question on the amendment has been offered, the question shall then be put as follows:

- a. Amendment to the amendment.
- b. Amendment.
- c. Original motion.

13. When a question is postponed indefinitely shall not come up again, except upon unanimous consent.

14. Before putting a question to vote the

Presiding Officer shall ask: "Is the body ready for the question?" Then it shall be in order for debate. If no member rises to speak, the Presiding Officer shall then put the question, and after the vote is taken, he shall immediately announce the result.

25. When the Presiding Officer has commenced taking a vote no further debate or remarks shall be allowed, unless a mistake has been made, in which case the mistake shall be rectified, and the Presiding Officer shall recommence taking the vote.

26. Before the Presiding Officer declares the vote on a question any member may ask for a division of the house; then the Chair is in duty bound to comply with the request, and a standing vote shall be taken.

27. Every member present shall vote on all questions before the body unless personally interested or excused by the body.

28. When a blank is to be filled, the question shall be taken first upon the highest sum or number, or the longest or latest time.

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